

CROYDON PHILATELIC SOCIETY
NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27TH JUNE 2017:

The Honorary Secretary, Frank Simpson, in the absence of the President, opened the meeting at 19.45 hours and apologised to the speaker that there were only 8 members present and one guest. He then invited **Grahame Lindsey**, who had come from Rustington, to give his display of "**Italy 1860-1929**".

After a short history of the nation states which made up the Italian Peninsula, Italy became a unitary nation on 17 March 1861 when the new Italian Parliament of elected representatives proclaimed Victor Emmanuel II King of Italy.

At first the stamps of Sardinia were used to frank the mail until the first Italian stamps, printed by F. Matraire of Turin in 1862, were issued in a similar design to the Sardinian ones which they replaced. The new stamps showed the embossed head of King Victor Emmanuel II. Various issues followed over the years and there was a comprehensive selection including specimens, blocks, overprints, used on cover and forgeries including inverted heads and fraudulent perforations. Postal stationery, advertising cards, covers and advertising labels attached to stamps were also well covered.

Two items of note were a cover addressed in braille and a registered, express postcard. Both of these are very rare items.

Frank Simpson thanked Grahame and said he was lost in admiration for the knowledge and enthusiasm displayed in his handwritten exhibit. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and the meeting closed at 21.15 hours as the speaker had a train to catch for his long journey home.

29.06.2017

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Graham Harker, Honorary Assistant Secretary